

# **MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

## **SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**21 November 2019**

#### **Call to Order**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of The Southwest Virginia Chapter, Military Officers Association was held on 21 November 2019 at 1000 hours Eastern Standard Time at the Hidden Valley Country Club, Salem Virginia.

#### **Directors and Chapter Officers Present**

President David Gilleran, Secretary Steve Jamison, Treasurer Scott Van Cleef, VCO Representative and Personal Affairs Officer and Jim Flynn, Legislative Affairs Representative and Awards Chair Robert Habermann, Sergeant At Arms Michael Kasnick, Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Representative Rick Cocrane; Director Larry Johnson, Director John Miller, Past President Dan Karnes, Director Emeritus Tom Dalzell.

#### **Directors and Chapter Officers Absent**

1st Vice President and Membership Chair Donna Fore, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Lee Ensley, Chaplain Roger Talmadge, Surviving Spouse Representative Mary Lou Summers, Director Michael Leigh.

#### **Call to Order**

President David Gilleran called the meeting to order at 1003 hours. A quorum of directors was present, and the meeting was convened.

#### **Opening Prayer**

President David Gilleran led the Board of Directors in prayer.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Director Emeritus Tom Dalzell led The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag recited by all present.

#### **Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes:**

- Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of 19 September 2019 were approved as submitted.

#### **President's Report**

- President David Gilleran stated that this was his next to last Board meeting as President.

- Mentioned that VCOC dues notice had been received. The treasurer will make the payment.
- Notified all that he received a notice from the Washington Redskins Football Organization, Military Ticket Office on the availability of game tickets for military and veterans. Contact him if interested.

### **Secretary's Report:**

- Secretary Steve Jamison reported on two new members Ron Johnson (Former US Army) and Dave Brammer (US Coast Guard Ret)
- Membership roster using the Committee Module up to date.
- Response to the appeal for financial support from chapter membership as of this date is \$2,250. Drafting a "Thank You" letter to those who responded.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Checking account balance - \$9,136.20. Includes recent deposits from donation request e-mails
- The Profit and Loss statement, Budget vs. Actual 1 January through 19 November 2019 was presented.
- Leadership and savings fund balance - \$7,430.58, of which \$3,050 is in savings, \$3,750 from the VFW gift and \$630.58 in the Leadership Awards fund.
- Treasurer requested input from the Board for the 2020 budget. Guidance requested from the Board on expenditure of newly raised funds and the VFW funds (\$3,750) currently held in the Leadership Fund. A proposed budget will be submitted for approval at the 19 December Board meeting.
- Cost to publish the quarterly newsletter was discussed. A motion was made and approved to publish the newsletter in an e-mail format to save money which will make the newsletter available to all members' not just dues paying members beginning with the 2020 newsletters. Printed hard copies will be made and mailed to members who do not have e-mail.

### **Chaplains Report**

- No report. Our chaplain Roger Talmadge sustained a fall and was rehabilitating at Friendship Manor South. Several members were going to check on his status.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report:**

- No report.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report:**

- No report

### **Membership Chair Report:**

- No Report

### **Program Directors Report**

- 21 November 2019 – Mr. Jerry Barnes US Army and Army Corps of Engineers as well as author of "Combat Survivor Stories." Lunch with Board of Directors meeting.

- 12 December 2019 – Will ask MOAA for a MOAA Representative for installation of officers and Board of Directors for 2020. Lunch with Board of Directors meeting.
- 16 January 2020 – (Tentative) Dr. Peter Coogan, History Professor Hollins University, WW II and Vietnam conflict. Lunch with Board of Directors meeting.
- 20 February 2020 - (Tentative) Mr. Martin Leam, Central and Southwest Virginia Honor Flight (Bedford, VA). Lunch meeting.
- 19 March 2020 – (Tentative) Ms. Amy White, Virginia Western Community College. STEM Program and veterans. Lunch with Board of Directors meeting.
- 16 April 2020 – (Tentative) CMDR Youssef Aboul-Enein. Middle East issues. Dinner meeting Shenandoah Club
- 21 May 2020 – TBD – Lunch with Board of Directors meeting.

### **Surviving Spouse Representative Report:**

- Secretary Steve Jamison reported on the status of procuring and presenting of a “Memorial Bench” to be placed at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia in memory of LTC James “Pat” Green, USA (Ret). Secretary Jamison and Surviving Spouse Representative Mary Lou Summers worked with the Virginia Veterans Cemetery representatives and received approval to donate a granite Memorial Bench, (a picture of a similar bench was shown to the Board), at a site to be designated by cemetery officials in the vicinity of the columbarium. The cost is from \$1,300 to \$1,500 with lettering on both sides of the bench no greater than 150 letters total. Side (1) of the bench will read “**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER.**” The opposite side of the bench will read “**LTC PATRICK H. GREEN, USA (RET) A DRIVING FORCE IN ESTABLISHING THIS CENETERY.**” A motion was made and approved to move forward with negotiations with the Virginia Veterans Cemetery to purchase and locate the granite “Memorial Bench” in memory of LTC Pat Green. During discussions the question arose as to which side of the memorial bench will face the road. This question still needs to be resolved. Steve Jamison and Mary Lou Summers for action.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Wreath Laying ceremony is scheduled for 14December 2019 at 1300 at the Wall of Honor in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Dublin, Virginia. Invitations and requests for donations have been sent out to provide and place wreaths on veterans’ grave sites. COL Rick Littleton, USA is coordinating the planning for the event. Chapter members COL Thomas Dalzell, USMC (Ret), COL Mark Clark USAF (Ret), COL John Miller, USA (Ret), CDR Lee Ensley USN (Ret), LTC Robert Habermann USA (Ret) and LT David Brammer USCG (Former) will participate.

### **Legislative Liaison Report:**

- LTC Bob Habermann is the interim Chapter Legislative Representative and reported the following:
- MOAA supports legislation introduced in the House and Senate would ensure Coast Guard members are paid the same as the other services. Also, MOAA has engaged with representatives about how to cover commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as well as those with the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) who are working with unfunded agencies. Specific legislation regarding these agencies has not been introduced, though bills in both the House and Senate would guarantee all federal employees exempted from furlough continue to be paid during a future funding lapse.

- After several veterans' reform issues were dropped from the massive \$1.3 trillion omnibus spending package signed into law in March, MOAA believes that progress on any veterans' legislation has stalled until a new VA secretary is confirmed. That could have a significant impact on several important issues, most notably including the VA's role in private sector health care. MOAA notes that it been four years since a scandal at the Phoenix VA Medical Center shed light on the wait-times veterans faced when seeking care at the VA. Since then, Congress has spent billions of dollars allowing veterans to find private-sector care in the community, at the federal government's expense, while it works on reducing patient wait times at its facilities.
- MOAA and other veteran service organizations have urged President Trump to help Congress pass critical Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans legislation, which has recently stalled in the Senate -- just days before the end of the legislative session. The letter was signed by MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), as well as leaders from Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, The American Legion, Paralyzed Veterans of America, AMVETS, and Vietnam Veterans of America.
- MOAA supports the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) proposal for the Fiscal Year 2020. NDAA will address our country's greatest military threats by authorizing a defense enterprise that is inclusive, accountable, and responsible in the management of its resources. If passed, the FY20 NDAA will mark the fifty-ninth consecutive year the Congress has enacted sweeping legislation in support of a robust, comprehensive national defense. The NDAA is the primary vehicle to execute Congress's crucial constitutional obligation to "provide for the common defense."
- Regarding the BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION AND DEPLOYMENTS matter, MOAA has opposed efforts to divert the Department of Defense funding to build a wall on our southwest border. MOAA proposes to implement provisions to prevent such diversions and to ensure that there is sufficient oversight over the deployment of our service members - including a blanket prohibition on DoD funds for the construction of a border wall, fence, or physical barrier to a wall along the southern border.
- Regarding ACQUISITION REFORM, MOAA believes that an effective, transparent acquisition policy is a prerequisite to an accountable Department of Defense. To that end, a new and increased emphasis on the software and personnel required to make acquisition efficient is vital. Therefore, MOAA supports a proposal which directs DoD to establish a new software acquisition pathway to procure, develop, deploy and continuously improve software for applications at the Department and to implement a software development training and management program to provide software practitioners access to modern engagement and collaboration platforms to connect, share skills and knowledge, and develop solutions leveraging the full Defense enterprise.
- MOAA also supports Acquisition Workforce Development, which modernizes the certification process at the Department to emphasize professional skills that are transferable across the workforce and industry and which creates a two-way exchange program between the Department's acquisition workforce and private sector companies by eliminating structural disincentives.
- Regarding MILITARY PERSONNEL, MOAA acknowledges that our military personnel is our single most valuable asset in our national defense strategy. To better serve our men and women in uniform and their families, MOAA supports a military pay raise of 3.1% and fully funds the Department's end strength as requested by the President's budget.
- Regarding READINESS, MOAA purports that the readiness of our military is built on training, sustainment of weapon systems, and adequate facilities that

- support troops and their families. In order to accomplish this mission, MOAA supports these readiness pillars by addressing Problems with the Management and Oversight of Military Family Housing and the Movement of Household Goods and requires the military services to establish a tenants' bill of rights for residents of privatized military family housing that includes at minimum the following elements: a prohibition on reprisal by either the private partner or military chain of command; provision of a housing advocate that is not co-located with or employed by the private partner. MOAA would also like to see a dispute resolution mechanism for withholding rent payments where appropriate during the dispute resolution process and ensure the prompt provision of maintenance by qualified personnel and effective communication regarding the status of their work orders to include access to an electronic work order management system.
- Regarding The National Defense Authorization Act for FY2020 (HR 2500), the bill passed the House 12 July 2019 but has not passed the Senate yet. Two related measures that should be reviewed to provide the current context for the NDAA FY 2020 are S 1790 and HR 2938. A critical debate between Democrats and Republicans has stalled the final passage of HR 2500. This delay caused Congress to pass a Continuing Resolution in late September 2019 to allow further debate opportunity while continuing to operate the Government until 21 Nov 2019.
  - Regarding The military 'widow's tax' – MOAA recognizes that the House authorization bill draft includes eliminating an offset problem with two separate military survivor payouts that can cost some families up to \$15,000 a year. However, the Senate has resisted the plan, noting the \$5.7 billion price tag for the government over the next decade. The first payout, the Dependency, and Indemnity Compensation program, awards about \$15,000 a year to survivors of veterans or troops who die of service-related causes. There is no cost to troops or families to enroll.
  - Regarding The Survivor Benefit Plan, MOAA notes that the plan gives families of military retirees who enroll up to 55 percent of their loved ones' retirement pay after the veteran dies. The life insurance-type payouts are subsidized by the Defense Department, but require enrollees to pay as part of their retirement benefit to be eligible. Individuals who qualify for either SBP money or DIC benefits receive full payouts from the respective programs. But family members who qualify for both are subject to an offset, where for every dollar paid out in DIC, their payouts under SBP are reduced by one dollar.
  - Finally regarding The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP), MOAA notes that this is a Virginia program which provides education benefits to spouses and children of qualified veterans or military service members who, during direct involvement in covered military combat, were killed, missing in action, or became a prisoner of war; or who, as a direct result of such service, have been rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as totally and permanently disabled or at least 90 percent permanently disabled and have been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

### **VCOC Representative Report:**

- Jim Flynn VCOC Representative attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter VCOC Biennial luncheon meeting at Patriots Colony in Williamsburg, VA on 9 October 2019 and reported the following:
  - LTGEN Dana Atkins, CEO of MOAA, presented the MOAA Five and Four-Star Levels of Excellence Awards. The Southwest Virginia Chapter was awarded a Four-Star Award for 2018.
  - The Annual VCOC Memorial Service was conducted at this meeting. Representatives from Member Chapters read the names of their departed

members from 1 October 2018 through 1 October 2019. SWVC departed members read were Col Lou Rossi and LTC Pat Green and LTC Bill Gore.

- LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2020- JLC Legislative Policy Initiatives
  - The Joint Leadership Council (JLC), comprised of 25 veteran service organizations (VSOs) including MOAA met for their Q4 2019 meeting on Wednesday, October 16th, at the Department of American Legion office in Richmond VA. During this meeting, the collective 2020 Legislative Priorities for the 2020 General Assembly were finalized and prioritized. Here is the **Summary of the 2020 JLC Policy Initiatives:**
  - **JLC 2020-01 - 2nd Resolution – Personal Property Tax Exemption**
  - **JLC 2020-02 - Counting Military Absentee Ballots After Election Day**
  - **JLC 2020-03 - Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low-Income 100% Disabled Veterans**
  - **JLC 2020-04 - Virginia National Guard Emergency Response Pay**
  - **JLC 2020-05 - Tax Credits for Employers who Hire VNG and Reserves**
  - **JLC 2020-06 - Microloans for Veterans Program (MVP)**
  - Each policy paper can be accessed at:  
**<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2>**.
  - In addition to the six initiatives, the JLC has four letters of support for the following:
    - 1. Governor's challenge to prevent suicide among service members, veterans and their families
    - 2. Funding for new Care Centers in biennial budget
    - 3. Commonwealth Connect – universal broadband access for Virginians
    - 4. Virginia National Guard Scholarship
  - Each letter will be posted to the JLC website after submission to the Governor and Secretary of Veteran & Defense Affairs. Watch <http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2>.
- 2020 VCOC Meeting Schedule. The 2020 VCOC Meeting Schedule is currently being planned and will be announced as soon as available. **The JLC 2020 Storming of the General Assembly has been scheduled for Wednesday 15 January 2020.** Further details TBA.
- The event concluded with the induction by LTGEN Dana Atkins of the new VCOC Officers for 2020-2021. The new VCOC Officers for the upcoming term include the following: PRESIDENT - COL Boyd Nix, USAF (Ret) from Virginia Peninsula Chapter, 1st VICE PRESIDENT – CDR Lincoln Smith, USN (Ret), 2nd VICE PRESIDENT – LCDR Dolly Cherrington, USN (Ret), 3rd VICE PRESIDENT – COL Frank Wickersham, USMC (Ret), SECRETARY – COL Monti Zimmerman, USAR (Ret), and TREASURER – LTC Jim Stephan, USAR (Ret). Incoming President, COL Boyd Nix, delivered the closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.

### **Public Affairs Report**

- Communiqué Newsletter – 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (OCT-NOV-DEC) in the works to be published in December 2019.
- Chapter Website & Face book – Not active. Need a volunteer to handle these sites.

- Public Affairs/Media – Need a volunteer to fill this position.
- VCOC website: <http://www.virginiamoaa.com> Need a volunteer to fill this responsibility.
- Sponsorships – Searching for sponsors –\$200 received from ACE Hardware for 2020 one quarter page add.
- Upcoming PR opportunities – Veterans Day 2019 activities included:
  - Roanoke Veterans Day Parade
  - Martinsville Veterans Day Parade
  - Dedication of a Blue Star Memorial Marker atop scenic Mill Mountain to honor the armed forces sponsored by the Westchester Garden Club in cooperation with the city of Roanoke.
  - BGEN Scott Van Cleef USAF (Ret) addressed students at Lord Botetourt High School.
  - Former Captain Larry Johnson addressed Home Schooled students.

### **Sergeant At Arms Report**

- No report.

### **Past President's Report:**

- No report.

### **Director Reports**

- Smith Mountain Lake Satellite representative Rick Cocrane reported on the recent and upcoming programs at SML:
  - The 12 November lunch meeting program featured Pat Massa speaking on “Water Safety”
  - Friday 17 January 2020. Dinner meeting with a program on the “Flying Tigers” by Professor Frank Stritter.
  - Tuesday 11 February 2020. A lunch meeting with a program on “German Prisoners of War Held in Virginia” by John Long, Director of Education D-Day Memorial.
  - Tuesday 10 March 2020. A lunch meeting with a program on the “Military Order of the Purple Heart” by Clifton R “Buck” Krantz.
  - Friday 17 April 2020. A dinner meeting with a program “A Perspective on the Civil War” by Linda Breckinridge.

### **Committee Chairperson's Report**

- Awards Chair:
  - There are now 15/16 JROTC units and 4 ROTC units that the chapter supports with the MOAA Medal Awards. The award nomination and presentation process begins in January 2020 with letters sent out to all units in January/February 2020.
  - The two Chapter Leadership Award application forms will be sent to Virginia Tech and Radford University in January/February 2020.
  - Discussion then turned to the MOAA JROTC Medal Awards. In past Board meetings there was some discussion to do more to recognize the MOAA JROTC Medal Award recipients. The MOAA JROTC Medal Award is for rising seniors. One suggestion was to add a \$50 stipend to the award.. With that in mind Steve Jamison spoke with the Archer family and

- put forward a proposal to fund a \$50 stipend and include a special plaque engraved to recognize the award recipient in honor of General Archer's father. Steve suggested to the Archers \$1,500 a year. The cost would be \$50 x 15 awards = \$750 plus the cost of 15 plaques \$521 for \$1,271.
- The question then arose is this in addition to the MOAA JROTC Medal Award? Steve's thought that this was a new award given by the SWVC. The discussion then centered around whom the award should be presented to. It was suggested that the award should recognize a most outstanding JROTC senior from each JROTC unit with this new award. There was consensus that this was a new SWVC award.
  - Scott then broached the issue of adding the three local CAP units to this new award. He indicated he would contact the CAP units to see if they were interested in this special SWVC award. If the chapter goes with a new SWVC award recognizing outstanding senior cadets from the 15 JROTC units plus the three CAP units the cost would be \$50 x 18 awards = \$900 plus the cost of 18 plaques \$630 = \$1,530 within the range of Steve's proposal to the Archer's.
  - It was decided that the chapter would continue with presenting the MOAA JROTC Medal Award to rising seniors as has been done in the past.
  - Steve Jamison presented a rendering of the proposed plaque with the appropriate wording he will present to the Archer family.
  - The chapter approved the new SWVC Outstanding JROTC Senior "Archer" Award funded by the donation each year by the Archer family possibly including the three CAP units.
  - The chapter will continue with the MOAA ROTC Medal Awards for Virginia Tech and Radford plus the Leadership Awards as is currently done.

### Old Business

- The following issues raised during the Strategic Planning meeting on 18 July 2019 still need to be addressed:
  - Establishment of measurable goals/objectives – See Strategic Initiatives in the “Strategic Planning Meeting SWVC – Preliminary Document of Record.”
  - Vision – The following Vision Statement was approved by vote of the Board Members present. **“To Be An Influential Military Organization in Southwest Virginia”**. Action completed.
  - Mission Statement - The following Mission Statement was approved by vote of the Board Members present. **“As the community face of the Military Officers Association of America, the Southwest Virginia Chapter’s mission is to advocate for a strong national defense, be an influential provider and supporter of programs, benefits and services for our military community, and a source of social fellowship for our members.”** Action completed.
  - Advocacy – Strong Speaker Program; Improved contact with legislative representatives; Disseminate legislative issues. Ongoing.
  - Membership – Develop a process to increase and keep membership.
  - Engagement - Greater partnership with other organizations/Roanoke Valley Veterans Council; Greater community awareness of MOAA service.

- Finances - Developing fundraiser process/targets – plan, sponsorships; Develop plan for the VFW funds held in Leadership account. Revise/discontinue 50/50 drawing.
- Organizational Capacity/Internal Engagement - Increase engagement of current and new members; Review leadership structure; **Establish a Newsletter Publisher; Establish a Marketing/Advertising person, Establish a Webmaster/Social Media person**; Develop a succession plan to backup core leadership positions.
- Revise Chapter By-Laws to reflect results of strategic planning decisions. Ongoing.
- Need to complete nominations for Chapter Officers and Board of Director members for 2020.
- Recommendations being solicited for future membership meeting speakers and programs for 2020.
- The Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery /Social Media Volunteers Holiday Wreath Program will take place with a wreath laying ceremony on Saturday 14 December 2019 at 1300 hours. Donations are being solicited to pay for the wreaths to be placed on veterans grave sites at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia

### **New Business:**

- Development of the slate of Chapter Officers and Board Members for 2020. The current slate is incomplete. Need to fill 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President slot; Chaplain slot; Personal Affairs Representative slot; Public Affairs (Newsletter/Web site/Facebook) slot; Programs slot; Bereavement Committee slot; Transition Team Representative slot; Community Services Volunteer Representative slot.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 1145 hours. The next Board of Directors meeting will be at 1000 hours on Thursday, 12 December 2019 at Hidden Valley Country Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen L. Jamison